

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2006. In the Office Action, the Patent Office rejected Claims 1-11 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Patent Office rejected Claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication No. 20020006887 to *Radwanski et al.* Further, the Patent Office rejected Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, 14, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,723,428 to *Foss et al.* Still further, the Patent Office rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,610,173 to *Lindsay et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,789,326 to *Hansen et al.* and *Radwanski et al.*; and rejected Claims 13 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Foss et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,921,062 to *Weder*.

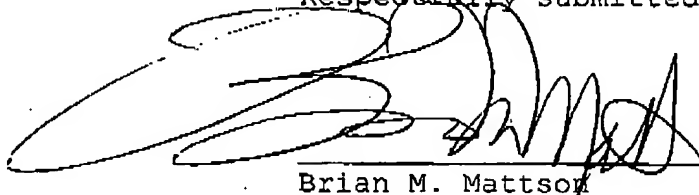
By the present Amendment, Applicants cancelled Claims 1-29 and added new Claims 30-35. Applicants assert that the amendments to the claims overcome the objections and rejections made by the Patent Office and place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Patent Office indicated that Claims 15-19, 22 and 29 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To this end, Applicants

added new Claims 30-35 incorporating dependent Claims 15-19 and 22 into independent Claim 12 and added new Claim 35 incorporating dependent Claim 29 into independent Claim 26. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new Claims 30-35 are in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing remarks and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 30-35 are in allowable form and that the application is in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that neither further search nor consideration would be necessitated by entry of this Amendment. Therefore, entry of this Amendment is proper and should be effected. If, however, any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Patent Office to telephone Applicants' attorney so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants' request the Patent Office to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** and **Transmittal (in duplicate)** are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No: 571-273-8300) on April 6, 2007.



Brian M. Mattson (Reg. No. 35,018)